



**Richard J. Berry, Mayor**  
City of Albuquerque

**City of Albuquerque**  
*Department of Senior Affairs*  
Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center  
510 Elizabeth SE Albuquerque, NM 87123



Winston Brooks, Superintendent  
Albuquerque Public Schools

November 18, 2010

**Attention:** Grade Level Chairperson

As part of the Older Americans' Month celebration during May, Albuquerque Public Schools and the Department of Senior Affairs are conducting the Twenty-ninth Annual Essay Contest **for first through fifth grade students only**. The topic of the essay is **"A Senior Citizen I Know."**

The "Senior Citizen I Know Essay Contest" supports Language Arts standards in Strand III for grades 1 -5 in Writing Strategies, Conventions and Applications.

The purpose of this contest is to promote positive relationships between elementary school students and senior citizens. Each student who enters the contest will receive a Certificate of Participation and a coupon from McDonald's Restaurants. I hope that you will encourage your teachers and students to participate in this intergenerational activity. *(Please copy and distribute this information to teachers at your grade level.)*

**Contest Rules and Entry Forms are available on the City of Albuquerque Department of Senior Affairs' website <http://www.cabq.gov/seniors/>.**

Listed below are the rules, selection process and judging criteria for the contest.

**RULES: All rules must be followed or essays will be DISQUALIFIED!**

1. All essays must be the original work of the student.
2. Essays may be up to 300 words in length.
3. Essays must be typed or hand written on the Official Entry Form.
4. The first page of the Official Entry Form **must** list the child's:

**Name**

**Grade**

**Age**

**Boy or Girl**

**Teacher**

**School**

**Title of Essay** ("A Senior Citizen I Know" is the subject)

5. The original essays will be scanned and compiled into a booklet.
6. Essays written in a foreign language must also submit a translated English copy.

## SELECTION PROCESS:

1. Preliminary judging will be the responsibility of each school.
2. Each grade level is to be judged separately.
3. Suggestions for judges at each school include: PTA members, UNM students, senior citizens, and non participating teachers and/or students.
4. Essays from **one boy and one girl** in each grade will be selected at each school. **A total of ten winning essays (two per grade level) from each school are to be sent to Kessick Blech, Hoover Middle School, 12015 Trivoli NE., Albuquerque, NM 87111 or Angelina Poulin, Youth & Community Program Coordinator at Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center located at 501 Elizabeth SE, Albuquerque, NM 87123, by Monday, February 18, 2011.**  
A note must accompany the entries stating the total number of students who wrote essays for the contest. Based on the numbers submitted, the appropriate number of Certificates of Participation and McDonald's coupons will be forwarded to each school by May.
5. A panel of judges will select the 30 city winners.
6. Selected winning essays will be on display throughout the city and will also be published in a booklet.

## JUDGING CRITERIA:

1. The message about the senior citizen should be clear.
2. The impact of the message should be appealing.
3. The contest rules must be followed.
4. The essay should demonstrate skills appropriate for the grade level.

Thirty city winners will be chosen from APS, private schools, and home schooled students in Albuquerque. The winners and their families will be invited to an awards reception sponsored by Lovelace Senior Plan on **Thursday, May 5, 2011** at 4:30pm Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center. Each winner will receive a gift from Wells Fargo Bank, a pass to Cliff's Amusement Park, and a Certificate of Award from Mayor Berry and Superintendent Winston Brooks. Teachers and principals of the winning students will also be recognized on that date.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding the contest, please contact Department of Senior Affairs' Contest Coordinator, Angelina Poulin, [apoulin@cabq.gov](mailto:apoulin@cabq.gov) or 275-8731; Assistant Coordinator, Corinne Elwell, [celwell@cabq.gov](mailto:celwell@cabq.gov) or 291-6211.

Sincerely,

  
Angelina Poulin, Contest Coordinator  
Department of Senior Affairs  
City of Albuquerque

  
Rigo Chavez.  
Community Relations Office  
Albuquerque Public Schools